Navy's San Diego Network Operations Center Opens Today

SAN DIEGO — Information Technology for west coast activities of the U.S. Navy take a step into the future today as the Network Operations Center at Coronado Island opens at 11:00 a.m. The Navy and Marine Corps Intranet will revolutionize Information Technology processes for the two services by streamlining and standardizing computer acquisition, operations, maintenance, and management into a service contract with the Information Strike Force.

The Network Operations Center will control 78, 000 computer users connectivity and can back up any regional network operations center in an emergency. Employing more than 340 people when fully staffed, the San Diego NOC will provide an annual payroll of $38 million to the San Diego economy. The facility sports a visual information wall providing controllers with status of data flow between Department of the Navy sites that have converted to the NMCI and to and from the internet. The wiring in the NOC amounts to more than 757 miles of fiber and copper cable bringing together servers, computers, data storage and external connections to the world.

The NMCI will provide current business computers, office software, and regular technological refreshment of these systems to Navy users at shore facilities. The NMCI is more than twice as large as the next corporate network in existence. One tremendous cost savings to the Navy will come in the reduction in the number of individual legacy applications that will be eliminated, standardized, or upgraded to Windows 2000 compliant editions. At SPAWAR alone, more than 3,955 separate legacy applications have been identified and 1,915 eliminated as a result of the NMCI conversion process.

The Information Strike Force will operate the NOC and provide service to the Navy. The ISF is made up of EDS, WorldCom, Cisco, Wam!Net, Microsoft, Dell, Dolch, Ratheon, Dataline and numerous small businesses.

Carlsbad-based company, Rancho Santa Fe Technology-MCS Inc., renovated the facilities and installed the new communications and support equipment. The company employs about 400 people on contracts valued at $75,000,000 to renovate and upgrade facilities for the NMCI in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. More than $40 million of those contracts are for work on the Network Operations Center on North Island, server farms on Point Loma, and the Help Desk and IT laboratory at Commerce Point (near Old Town). In addition to the San Diego work, Rancho Santa Fe is currently upgrading infrastructure and technology systems for about $15 million on Navy and Marine Corps bases at Port Hueneme, Point Mugu, China Lake, and Lemoore in California and Fallon, Nevada.

SPAWAR moved to San Diego from Washington, D.C. in 1997 and employs more than 4,000 people in the San Diego area. SPAWAR is one of the Department of the Navy's three major acquisition commands. Its mission is to enable knowledge superiority for the warfighter through the development, acquisition and life cycle support of effective, capable and integrated C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), Information Technology, and Space Systems.